

**WATER Center**  
101 E. Pawnee  
Wichita, KS 67211  
Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on  
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays  
Closed Holidays  
(316) 337-9262  
Fax (316) 337-9266  
[www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/)



# Happenings H<sub>2</sub>O Observations

*A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center*

April - June 2007

Volume 2, Issue 2

## What's Inside?

- **SUMMER PROGRAMS!**
- **Ark River Clean-up Event**
- **New Interpretive Trail Under Way**
- **Senior Wednesday**
- **Meetings and Events**

## What's New?

### WATER Center Receives Award

The WATER Center has been awarded the 2006-07 Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Award in the Government Category by the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education.

Nominated by its peers, the Center exhibited outstanding leadership and achievement, as well as collaboration and cooperation within the state's environmental education field.

"We appreciate the KACEE organization for recognizing our Center and staff with this prestigious award," said Wichita Environmental Services Director, Kay Johnson. "Environmental education is an important endeavor that we feel is critical to helping preserve and protect Wichita's environment and water resources."

## Why Aquariums?

Fish demonstrate the life-supporting qualities of the cleaned groundwater.

### What does clean water look like?

The water from our faucets comes out clear and cool. We stay healthy because our public drinking water is treated so that the bacteria, algae, and harmful elements are removed.

But the WATER Center does not create drinking water. So what does clean water look like?

### Healthy water is not always clear.

Clean water – water that is healthy for rivers, lakes, and streams – supports a diverse community of plants and animals. Based on the variety and condition of the plants and animals, we can understand the health of a community.

### The WATER Center Aquariums are filled with treated groundwater.

Unlike a home aquarium that re-circulates the same water through a filter system, the Center's aquariums receive a constant fresh supply of treated groundwater.

Throughout the year, many chemical tests are done on the groundwater to check the treatment system's effectiveness. But, what does clean water *look* like?

The aquarium fishes allow visitors to easily see the effects of clean water. Currently, seventeen native species are on display, with an additional eight species living in the creek.

Think that's a lot? Think again! There are at least forty-nine species of fish that inhabit the Arkansas River in Wichita!

## Arkansas River Clean-Up Event

**On May 5<sup>th</sup>, join in the fun as we clean up the Arkansas River. Try out a canoe or walk along the banks during this beautification event.**

We need your help! Join neighbors, friends or meet someone new as we make a clean sweep along the Arkansas River. Previous clean-up events have recovered over a ton of trash from the river and its banks. Remember, "Our River is Our Responsibility."

### Event Details:


**Date:** May 5, 2007

**Time:** 10 a.m. – Noon

**Place:** Meet on the East side of Lawrence Dumont Parking Lot

*Rubber gloves and trash bags will be provided*





### PROGRAM REGISTRATION

~ Registration Will Close 5 Days Before the Program Date~

**Participant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: M F

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check one: ☒ Over 18 years old ☐ Under 18, what age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Leader Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

### I PLAN TO ATTEND THESE PROGRAMS:

	DATE	PROGRAM	TIME	AGE	COST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 8	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 19	Mud Masterpieces	9-11 AM	Ages 10-18	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 26	Build A Fish	10-11 AM	Ages 4-7	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 26	Pond Snoopers	2-4 PM	Ages 8-12	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 29	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	July 12	City Safari	10-11 AM	Ages 4-7	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	July 13	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	July 17	Junior Biologist	1-3 PM	Ages 8-12	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	July 19	Sandbar Treasures	9-11 AM	Ages 8-18	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	July 27	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	August 2	Magnificent Mussels	1-3 PM	Ages 8-12	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	August 9	Just Add Water (And Sun)	1-3 PM	Ages 8-18	\$2

### REGISTRATION COMPLETION:

Program Fee Totals \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to the **WATER Center**.  
**Mail Registration and Fees to: PROGRAMS, WATER Center,**  
**101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211**  
**Or Fax: 316-337-9266**



Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on  
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays  
Closed Holidays

## The WATER Center

is located in:

### Herman Hill Park

Open daily sunrise to sunset

18-hole disc golf course

Accessible trails

Playground equipment

Picnic areas

**Skateboarding, swimming and  
fishing are prohibited**



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# Happenings

## Program Schedule

### FISH FEEDINGS

Every  
Monday and Friday  
3:00 PM

### New Trail Underway

Ten numbered posts have been installed along the WATER Center Creek Trail. Eagle Scout, Nathan Fisher, is currently designing a corresponding trail guide that will highlight the creek's plants and wildlife.

Watch for the new  
Trail Guide in  
Fall 2007!

### Meetings & Events

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the following meetings held each month at the WATER Center.

#### April

4<sup>th</sup> District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

11<sup>th</sup> Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

28<sup>th</sup> Arkansas River Coalition Annual Meeting - \$5.00 11 AM - 3 PM

#### May

2<sup>nd</sup> District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

9<sup>th</sup> Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

#### June

6<sup>th</sup> District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

13<sup>th</sup> Wichita Area Paddlers 6:30-9:00 PM

### Youth Events

#### FISH TALES

Second Tuesday of the Month  
10:00 AM, Ages 2-6, Free

No registration needed

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature surprise! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>

"The Magic School Bus Wet All Over" by Joanna Cole

MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>

"Turtle Spring" by Deborah Turney Zagwyn

JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>

"It's Mine" a fable by Leo Lionni

JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>

"Little Beaver and The Echo" by Amy MacDonald

AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>

"The Pig in the Pond" by Martin Waddell

### YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

Pre-Registration Required ~ Space is Limited

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Ages 8-15 Free

#### June 8<sup>th</sup> - Waterfall Repair

Water is a powerful force! Overtime, some of the waterfalls along the WATER Center creek have been washed out. Help staff rebuild the falls. *Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet*

#### June 29<sup>th</sup> - River Rangers

Trash along the river both blows in and flows in. Help staff pick up the litter along the Arkansas River in Herman Hill Park. *Wear STURDY shoes*

#### July 13<sup>th</sup> - Fountain Cleaning

Over time, algae, snails and other material builds up on the bottom of the WATER Center fountains. Help the staff drain and wash out the fountain pools. *Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet.*

#### July 27<sup>th</sup> - Habitat Fix-It

The logs in the creek ponds provide important shelter for fish and insects. Over time, these branches get pushed around. Help staff recreate this habitat. *Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet.*

### ~Senior Wednesdays~

Adults 50+ ~ No Registration Required

#### SOMETHING'S FISHY

by Ken McCloskey

Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

1:30 – 3:00, Free

Learn about fish families and the special adaptations of these underwater creatures.

#### PRESCRIPTIONS IN THE RIVER

by Rebecca Gagnon

Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

New research has found that there are prescription medications in our river waters. Learn about what has been found and what you can do to help.

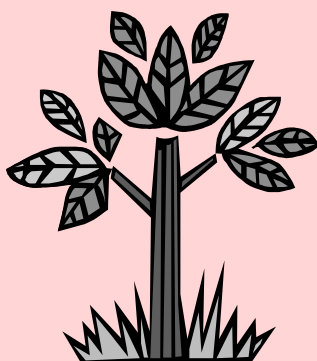
#### RAIN GARDENS

By Hilary Haley

Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Landscape using the water that falls from the sky! Take home a plant specifically adapted to Kansas' weather.



### Ripple Effects

"For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction."

~ Sir Isaac Newton

There is something incredible about exploring a creek for creatures and other "treasures." In our urban environment, it is no longer easy to go out the back door and walk across the pasture down to the stream. The WATER Center hopes that you will take time to visit and learn (or remember) how fun it can be to turn over a mossy rock or peak under a log to discover the mystery of what lives underneath.

~ Libby and Kay D.

### Summer Youth Programs

#### JUNE

MUD MASTERPIECES

Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 9-11 AM

Ages 10-18, Fee: \$2.00

*Pre-registration required*

Did you know that soil comes in many different colors? Ever thought of making a picture with mud? Here is your chance! Create a painting using a variety of Kansas' soils.

#### BUILD A FISH

Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 10-11 AM

Ages 4-7, Fee: \$2.00

*Pre-registration required*

Learn about fish as we recycle common household items to create some colorful creatures.

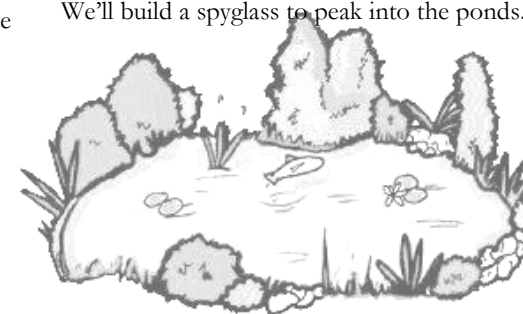
#### POND SNOOPERS

Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 PM

Ages 8-12, Fee: \$2.00

*Pre-registration required*

Strange creatures lurk under the surface of the water. What lives under a rock? A leaf? A log? We'll build a spyglass to peak into the ponds.



#### JULY

CITY SAFARI

Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 10-11 AM

Ages 4-7, Fee: \$2.00

*Pre-registration required*

Be an urban explorer! How do the city creatures get their water? We will make a nature journal and go on a wildlife safari in Herman Hill Park.



#### JUNIOR BIOLOGIST

Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 PM

Ages 8-12, Fee: \$2.00

*Pre-registration required*

Collect creatures from the WATER Center Creek. What are they? Be a biologist and follow the clues to the water quality mystery.

#### SANDBAR TREASURES

Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 9-11 PM

Ages 8-18, Fee: \$2.00

*Pre-registration required*

Beach-combing happens near the ocnas, but amazing tresures can be found along the Arkansas River's snadbars. (This program will be cancelled if the water level is too high.)

#### AUGUST

MAGNIFICENT MUSSELS

Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1-3 PM

Ages 8-12, Fee: \$2.00

*Pre-registration required*

What are mussels? How do they eat? Do they move? Investigate this amazing creature and make a caft using mussel shells.

#### JUST ADD WATER (AND SUN)

Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 PM

Ages 8-18, Fee: \$2.00

*Pre-registration required*

Water is used to create this newsletter. Using water from the creek, we will make our own paper that you can take home and make grow!

The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services

"Protecting Health – Preserving the Environment"

**D. Kay Johnson**

*Department Director*

### WATER Center Staff

**Libby Albers**

[lalbers@wichita.gov](mailto:lalbers@wichita.gov)

316-337-9262

*Environmental Services Specialist*

**Kay Drennen**

[kdrennen@wichita.gov](mailto:kdrennen@wichita.gov)

316-337-9264

*Water Resources Analyst*



### The Arkansas River

Rivers of North America Series

Travel down the Arkansas River from the headwaters to the confluence with the Mississippi. Learn about some of the history of the river and how the Arkansas River has affected the American West.

*This video was produced by Film Ideas Inc.*

### Did You Know?

In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.



~Lenntech Water Facts